United Nations A/61/642

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations

Measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements for safety and security

Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations: standardized access control

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's reports entitled "Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations" (A/61/531), "Measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements for safety and security" (A/61/223) and "Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations: standardized access control" (A/61/566). During its consideration of the reports, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/61/531 provides updated information on the progress achieved in establishing a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations, both at Headquarters and in the field. It also identifies those areas where additional work is needed to ensure that the Department of Safety and Security is in a position to manage new requirements identified over the past 18 months and to respond to unforeseen emergency situations. The report is submitted in compliance with section XI, paragraph 56, of General Assembly resolution 59/276, whereby the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine the possibility for further integration and rationalization of the security management system and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

06-66496 (E) 181206

3. The conclusions and recommendations contained in the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General provide for the following:

(a) The reclassification of the existing D-2 Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General post to the Assistant Secretary-General level;

(b) The continuation of the D-2 position of Director, Headquarters Security and Safety Service;

(c) The conversion of the 134 temporary posts to established posts in the Security and Safety Services;

(d) The establishment of a United Nations crisis management capability and the reversion to the ongoing requirements in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in section XI, paragraph 24, of its resolution 59/276, decided to establish a D-2 post of Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and to review the post in the context of the implementation report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its sixtieth session.

5. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the reclassification of the D-2 post of Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security should be considered in the context of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.**

6. In section XI, paragraph 25, of its resolution 59/276, the General Assembly decided to review the post of the head of the Division of Safety and Security Services in the context of the implementation report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 30 of his report that the Director of the Division provides policy direction, operational guidance and overall technical supervision to the Security and Safety Services in New York and at the other headquarters locations and regional commissions, and ensures the provision of safety and security programmes that provide for an optimal level of security in order to protect staff, delegates, visiting dignitaries and other visitors to United Nations premises, to prevent damage to United Nations property and to provide safe and secure facilities. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed continuation of the D-2 position of Director, Headquarters Security and Safety Service.**

7. With regard to the proposed conversion of the 134 temporary posts to established posts in the Security and Safety Services, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, by section XI, paragraph 26, of its resolution 59/276 decided to establish 383 new Security Officer posts at the Local, General Service and Security Service levels, of which 249 are established posts and 134 are temporary posts. The Committee was provided, upon request, with additional information in support of the proposed conversion (see annex), as well as statistics on the vacancy situation, which indicate a marked improvement. **On the basis of the foregoing and recognizing the continuous nature of functions assigned to these 134 posts, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed conversion.**

8. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through a bilateral agreement with the United

Nations, administers and supports the Department of Safety and Security field security personnel (250 Professional and 369 Local-level General Service posts). These staff members are paid in accordance with the UNDP compensation system and there are differences in the total compensation package under UNDP and those under the United Nations, including benefits and allowances, for non-family duty stations. **The Advisory Committee sought clarification as to why those staff members were provided conditions of service that were different from those of other Secretariat staff serving in other non-family duty stations. As this information had not been received by the Committee at the time of the preparation of the present report, it should be provided directly to the General Assembly.**

9. Paragraphs 50 and 51 of the report (A/61/531) contain information related to the proposal to endorse the establishment of a United Nations crisis management capability. The Advisory Committee observes that the Department of Safety and Security has a crisis management structure in place to handle a crisis of limited scope, duration and complexity; the Department is planning to gradually assume a leading role in crisis response and crisis management for the United Nations system with the intention of developing and refining concepts and plans, some of which already exist within the system, in a manner which would ultimately lead to the creation of a cooperative crisis management network or partnership that would serve the Organization as a whole. Moreover, the Committee observes that the Department of Safety and Security will need to: (a) enhance the Department's existing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, communications centre capabilities and resources to better facilitate crisis management and continuity of operations; (b) develop and implement global communications capabilities with the field to include secure communications, where needed, as well as an information reporting protocol; and (c) develop and implement departmental plans for continuity of operations, including maintaining key information and communications technologies during an emergency or crisis event. The Secretary-General indicates that while a small team will be formed using existing resources at this stage, ongoing requirements related to crisis management would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

10. **The Advisory Committee notes the establishment of the crisis management structure and trusts that, where appropriate, the related functions will be developed in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.** The Committee understands that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 will provide detailed information on the project and its related costs.

11. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/61/223 summarizes the actions taken by the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and outlines the revised modalities agreed upon by the organizations participating in the cost-sharing arrangements for the operational administration of such arrangements. The Advisory Committee recalls that in section XI, paragraph 48, of its resolution 59/276, the General Assembly decided to maintain existing arrangements with regard to cost-sharing for safety and security.

12. As indicated in the report, there are ongoing discussions with the World Bank concerning its participation. **The Advisory Committee supports and encourages the High-level Committee on Management in its efforts to expeditiously resolve**

this matter. The Committee reiterates its view that the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations organizations, funds and programmes share a common responsibility for the security and safety of their staff and it is in their interest to provide adequate and assured funding for security (see A/58/758, para. 31).

13. The Advisory Committee observes that the High-level Committee on Management at its ninth session decided that a governance system should be established which would ensure that all organizations participating in cost-sharing arrangements would be periodically consulted in a timely manner on each step of the formulation, approval, recosting and revision of cost-shared budgets. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the initiative by the High-level Committee on Management, as this development is in line with the earlier expressed view of the Committee that all concerned must share a common ownership in the system, with the right to participate in decision-making (see A/59/539, para. 32).**

14. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/61/566 elaborates further on standardized access control measures as outlined in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the matter (A/60/695) and provides the detailed information requested by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/60/7/Add.35). It also describes the proposed scope, concept and revised course of action for standardized access control at all main locations of the Organization and identifies the estimated costs of addressing critical requirements that should be implemented. The Secretary-General indicates that the additional improvements identified will bring all main duty stations into compliance with the headquarters minimum operating security standards for perimeter protection and electronic access control. The report sets a new timetable for a detailed plan for implementation of the project.

15. As indicated in the report, the implementation of the standardized access control project will be undertaken in two phases. The first phase is intended to meet compliance with headquarters minimum operating security standards for perimeter protection and electronic access control. The second phase, which will be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, is designed to provide for compliance with those standards with regard to defined layers of security within the perimeter.

16. The Advisory Committee observes that an independent assessment was conducted of the technical soundness and cost-effectiveness of the proposed access control system. The Secretary-General indicates that the assessment reviewed the proposals with regard to the objectives of the headquarters minimum operating security standards and concluded that the proposed security improvements were fully compliant with those standards; the level of technology specified was appropriate and there was no overlapping of requirements; the overall design approach and the selection of technologies, systems and brands were consistent with standard practice in the security industry; and the cost estimates and unit costs of the access control system were accurate for budgetary purposes. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that while the access control system would generate real-time information on entry/exit of electronic access card holders and, accordingly, on their presence on United Nations premises, that data would not be used for purposes other than entry/exit control. The Secretary-General indicates that access control

records relating to entry, exit and movement within the premises are not shared except in the event of an emergency. **The Advisory Committee trusts that effective measures will be put in place to guarantee the highest level of protection of personal data available in the system.**

17. The Secretary-General reports that the standardized access control project is designed for full integration with fully implemented and pending security enhancement projects and with the overall United Nations information technology strategy; moreover, the capital master plan-managed project at the main Secretariat complex has been designed for full compatibility with the standardized access control project.

18. As indicated in paragraph 12 of the report, the cost estimates of $23,683,000 reflect the resources needed to raise each duty station from its current security level to a level of compliance with the headquarters standards as regards access control. The table in paragraph 60 of the report contains a breakdown of the estimated resource requirements by duty station and function or project. **The Advisory Committee had sought information on the implementation of security enhancement projects at all main United Nations duty stations. The information was not received by the time of the preparation of the present report and should therefore be submitted directly to the General Assembly.**

19. The Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly approve the proposed course of action and authorize him to enter into commitments of $20,208,000 under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, $1,500,000 under the budget for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and $1,975,000 under the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, to be reported on in the context of the respective second performance reports. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal.**

Annex

1. A comprehensive review of the security requirements at the various headquarters duty stations has confirmed the requirement for 383 additional posts (249 established and 134 temporary posts). The additional staffing is required to ensure that each headquarters duty station has the appropriate capacity to address the level of threat and vulnerability at its location and strengthen security coverage in the areas of risk and threat assessment, crisis management, investigations and VIP protection, internal posting and patrols, emergency response and surveillance detection, fire hazards and safety issues and the strengthening of security control centres. For New York, the canine operation, which had been contracted out, is now being undertaken in-house.

2. Since the aforementioned review, the threat and vulnerability levels for the various locations have not decreased. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises rests with the host country, it is the responsibility of the United Nations to ensure security inside the premises. The table in paragraph 38 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/531) provides an overview of the functions being performed by the new officers. It should be noted that the largest number of staff members are assigned to patrols and internal postings within the United Nations compound and for pedestrian and vehicle access control. Therefore, the discontinuation of the 134 temporary posts will have an adverse effect and will compromise the security of staff and premises.

3. The introduction of technology, such as the turnstiles in New York, is not expected to reduce the requirement for human resources. While technology will assist the security officers in the execution of their duties and ensure the availability of accurate data in the event of an emergency, the presence of security officers at the various entry points is required to facilitate access.